

5 station transmitting data to the source-base station at a first  
BS data rate and a first BS power level, a method comprising the  
steps of:

monitoring, at the remote station, a [the] first  
signal quality of the first received-spread-spectrum signal;

10 scanning, at said remote station, a plurality of  
received-spread-spectrum signals radiated from the plurality of  
base stations, respectively;

storing, at said remote station, a plurality of signal  
qualities for the plurality of received-spread-spectrum signals,  
15 respectively;

*B1*  
selecting, from the plurality of received-spread-  
spectrum signals, at said remote station, using the plurality of  
signal qualities from the plurality of received-spread-spectrum  
signals, a second received-spread-spectrum signal having a  
20 second signal quality transmitted from a target-base station;

initiating, from said remote station, upon the first  
signal quality falling below any of a [the] predetermined  
handoff threshold, a handoff process;

transmitting, from said remote station, an RS-access-  
25 burst signal having a plurality of RS segments, with each RS  
segment having a plurality of RS symbols carrying differentially  
encoded BS power-control information, with the plurality of RS  
segments having a plurality of RS power levels, increasing in  
time, respectively;

queuing, upon requesting the handoff process to the

target-base station, RS data for transmission from said remote station;

receiving, at said target-base station, the RS-access-burst signal at an RS detected-power level;

35 transmitting from said target-base station a BS-access-burst signal having a plurality of BS segments, with each BS segment having a plurality of BS symbols carrying differentially encoded RS power-control information, with the plurality of BS segments having a plurality of BS power levels,  
40 increasing in time, respectively;

B1 differentially encoding, responsive to detecting the BS-access-burst signal, the plurality of RS symbols with BS-power control information including power level for said target-base station;

45 differentially encoding, responsive to detecting the RS-access-burst signal, the plurality of BS symbols with RS-power control information including power level for said remote station;

50 receiving at said remote station, the BS-access-burst signal from said target-base station;

receiving at said target-base station, the RS-access-burst signal from said remote station;

transmitting, from said remote station to said target-base station, the queued RS data at a second RS data rate, with the second RS data rate greater than [the] a first RS data rate,